



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

IMPORTANT

NOTICE OF CHANGES MICHIGAN CONGENITAL HYPOTHYROIDISM SCREENING PROGRAM

Following a review of five years of hypothyroid screening, follow-up and medical management data by the department and the department's Pediatric Endocrine Advisory Council, the following program purpose and procedure changes will be initiated on October 1, 2003:

Clarification of Program Purpose

The purpose of screening for hypothyroidism in Michigan is **the early detection of primary hypothyroidism which if not treated promptly, results in mental retardation**. Most, but not all, cases of severe, early on-set primary hypothyroidism are detected by newborn screening. The screening program is not designed to detect late on-set, sub-clinical or secondary and tertiary hypothyroidism. **A negative newborn screening result does not rule out all abnormalities of thyroid function.** The physician must therefore remain alert to clinical symptoms in older infants despite normal newborn screening results. Repeat the test if any doubt exists.

Procedure Changes

- **TSH Screening only**
 - T4 screening will no longer be performed by the MDCH laboratories
- **Reporting Ranges**
 - Strong Positive Screening result (TSH \geq 50 uU/mL, serum units)
 - Borderline Positive result (TSH 33-49, uU/mL, serum units)
 - Reporting ranges stratified by age of infant
- **Follow up Procedures**
 - **Strong Positive** – Immediate referral for diagnostic evaluation that requires analysis of serum Free T4 and TSH
 - **Borderline Positive** – Immediate repeat newborn screen sent to MDCH Newborn Screening Laboratory. **IMPORTANT!!! DO NOT REQUEST SERUM RETESTS FOR BORDERLINE POSITIVE SCREENING RESULTS.**

The MDCH recommends preterm infants (< 34 weeks gestation), same sex twins and infants with Down Syndrome have a follow up newborn screening test for hypothyroidism at 2- 4 weeks of age. Please contact William Young, Ph.D., Newborn Screening Program Director, with any questions or concerns. He can be reached by telephone at (517) 335-8938 or email youngw@michigan.gov.